



To the most kind and virtuous
 Gentleman, Master
 WILLIAM ESSEX of
 Lamebourne⁵ In the County
 of **Berkshire**], Esquire.

SIR,



IT MAY seem strange that I should be
 thus far bold to make choice of
 yourself, a Patron of so slender a work;
 especially being so little known unto you as I
 am: but, howsoever, I protest what is done,
 proceeded from the unfeigned love I bear unto
 you, your own demerit, your friends' hope, and
 the good report of all men. All which are lively
 witnesses of your love to the Muses, your
 grace with Fortune^ and your fame with the
 World; quickened in your birth, increased in
 your travails, and living after death.

Deign, sweet Sir, to pardon the matter! judge
 favourably of the manner! and accept both !
 So shall I ever rest yours, In all dutiful
 affection.

Yours ever*

B. GRIFFIN.